

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/797,546

Examiner

Marissa L. Ferguson

Applicant(s)

MOCHIZUKI ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on 3/11/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 3/11/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Reasons for Allowance**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claim 1, the prior art does not meet or render obvious a foldable keyboard comprising first support shafts supported in the first support parts respectively, each first support shaft passing through each first slot with play, second support shafts supported in the second support parts respectively, each second support shaft passing through each second slot with play and when the first and second keyboard units are rotated from the horizontally arranged state to the superposed state, the cover member is synchronously turned by cooperation between the first support shafts and the first slots and between the second support shafts and the second slots, and the cover part of the cover member covers end faces of the first and second keyboard units in the superposed state and the support elements of the cover member cover side portions of each end face of the first and second keyboard units.

Regarding claim 5, the prior art does not meet or render obvious a foldable keyboard comprising first support parts formed in opposite corners in one side of the first keyboard unit, second support parts formed in opposite corners in one side of the second keyboard unit, a cover member including a pair of supporting elements which are turnably connected with the first and second support parts respectively so that the cover member covers end faces of the first and second keyboard units in the superposed state and a pair of grooves which are formed on both sides of one of the support elements and in which circular arc faces of the first and second support

plates are slidably engaged.

Regarding claim 9, the prior art does not meet or render obvious a foldable keyboard comprising first support parts formed in opposite corners in one side of the first keyboard unit, second support parts formed in opposite corners in one side of the second keyboard unit, a cover member including a pair of supporting elements which are turnably connected to the first and second support parts respectively so that the cover member covers end faces of the first and second keyboard units in the superposed state and the cover member inhibits turning of the first and second support plates in the superposed state and in course of rotation from the superposed state to the horizontally arranged state.

Regarding claim 13, the prior art does not meet or render obvious a foldable keyboard comprising first support parts formed in opposite corners in one side of the first keyboard unit, second support parts formed in opposite corners in one side of the second keyboard unit, a first link turnably supported in the first support part through the first support shaft, a second link turnably supported in the second support part through the second support shaft and a joint rod which pivotally joints the first and second links to allow for turning of the links with respect to each other.

Regarding claim 16, the prior art does not meet or render obvious a foldable keyboard comprising a device support member, which is raised to a standing orientation in conjunction with the rotation of the first and second keyboard units in a direction that they come apart, a keyboard stabilizing member provided in the cover part of the cover

member so that the stabilizing member is pulled in an axial direction of the rotation rod to outside of the first and second keyboard units and the keyboard stabilizing member is in a pulled state outside the first and second keyboard units while the device support member supports a device to prevent the first and second keyboard units from so tilting as to partially lift their bottoms from a setting plane.

Regarding claim 20, the prior art does not meet or render obvious a foldable keyboard comprising wherein the pawl of the first pawl member contacts with a wall plane of the first wall member and the pawl of the second pawl member contacts with a wall plane of the second wall member when the first and the second keyboard unit are horizontally arranged with each other, and wherein the pawl of the first pawl member engages with a shoulder formed between the first frame portion and the first wall member and the pawl of the second pawl member engages with a shoulder formed between the second frame portion and the second wall member, when the first support plate is turned in the horizontal direction on the first base plate and the second support plate is turned in the horizontal direction on the second base plate, thereby the first and second keyboard units are inhibited from folding thereof.

Regarding claim 21, the prior art does not meet or render obvious a foldable keyboard comprising a first slide groove formed in the first wall member, the first slide groove being connected to the first locking groove and extended toward the rotation rod, a second locking groove formed in the second wall member, a second slide groove formed in the second wall member, the second slide groove being connected to the second locking groove and extended toward the rotation rod, a first locking member

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having a projection and a shaft connected to the projection, the projection being slidably arranged within the first locking groove and the groove, a second locking member having a projection and a shaft connected to the projection, the projection being slidably arranged within the second locking groove and the shaft being slidably arranged in the second slide groove, a first spring arranged in the first locking groove, the first spring pressing the shaft of the first locking member toward the rotation rod, a second spring arranged in the second locking groove, the second spring pressing the shaft of the second locking member toward the rotation rod, wherein both end planes of the shafts of the first locking member and the second locking member contact with each other, when the first and the second keyboard units are horizontally arranged, thereby the first and second keyboard units are made turnable in the horizontal direction, and wherein the projection of the first locking member is locked in the first locking groove and the projection of the second locking member is locked in the second locking groove when the first and second keyboard units are in a state other than a state that the first and second keyboard units are horizontally arranged, thereby the first and second keyboard units are inhibited from turning in the horizontal direction.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

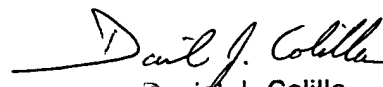
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa L. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2163. The examiner can normally be reached on (M-T) 6:30am-4:00pm and every other (F) 7:30am-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marissa L Ferguson  
Examiner  
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*MLF*  
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Daniel J. Colilla  
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